



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 113th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 160

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26, 2014

No. 48

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. BLACK).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,

March 26, 2014.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DIANE BLACK to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2014, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. QUIGLEY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, a famous storyteller Mark Twain once said, "Never let the truth get in the way of a good story," and proponents of the Keystone pipeline are following that advice very well. Supporters are painting an awfully rosy picture of Keystone's benefits while completely ignore the truth about the devastating damage it could cause.

TransCanada, a Canadian company that wants to build Keystone XL,

claims the pipeline is safe, but this is the same company that operates the existing Keystone pipeline which spilled a dozen times in the first year of operation. The worst spill released 21,000 gallons of oil in North Dakota, contaminating local soil and water.

TransCanada claims that significant spills will be few and far between, but engineers at the University of Nebraska found that the company ignored data on spills and failed to factor in the more corrosive tar sands oil transported in Keystone XL. The engineers determined that instead of being safe, Keystone XL could have as many as 91 major oil spills over the life of the pipeline.

This concerns me because Keystone XL will run through 2,000 miles of American farmland and over our country's largest water aquifer, the Ogallala. This aquifer provides drinking water for 2 million people and supplies water to more than a fourth of our Nation's irrigated farmland.

Most Americans understand that past oil spills have severe environmental impacts, but any Keystone XL spill will be truly catastrophic. Keystone XL spills are more dangerous because tar sands oil is heavier than conventional oil, meaning it would soak into soil and flow into water, sinking, contaminating miles of river and shoreline.

Tar sands oil is also the world's dirtiest oil, and approving the pipeline will accelerate its production, endangering our families, community, and climate.

When extracted and refined, tar sands oil emits 17 percent more carbon pollution than conventional oil production, which contributes to climate change. With 830,000 barrels of tar sands oil flowing through the pipeline each day, the metric tons of carbon dioxide added to the atmosphere each year would be equal to putting more than 5½ million more cars on our roads.

This means that building Keystone XL will undo the progress America has made to become more energy efficient and reduce carbon pollution for the sake of our environment. The bottom line is Keystone XL brings a whole lot of environmental risk and very little reward.

Proponents claim the pipeline will be great for the economy because it will promote jobs and reduce America's dependence on foreign oil. The data, however, doesn't support the claims that the pipeline will create 20,000 American jobs. The State Department says Keystone would only create 35 permanent jobs and fewer temporary construction jobs than initially projected.

Proponents claim the pipeline will lower gas prices and reduce our dependence on foreign oil. In reality, it will do neither. Prices at Midwestern pumps could actually increase. The pipeline will divert oil from Midwestern refineries designed to produce gasoline to Texas gulf refineries designed to produce diesel, which has a high overseas demand. Oil economists found a decline in gasoline production would increase gas prices in the Midwest between 5 cents to 40 cents per gallon.

We should not move forward on Keystone XL when we know the environmental impact far outweighs the projected minimal economic and job benefits. Our focus should be on strengthening our clean energy economy that has a job growth four times faster than any other sector. We have increased our solar capacity to power more than 2.2 million homes and made wind power an affordable alternative energy source.

When something seems too good to be true, it usually is. The Keystone XL pipeline sets false expectations about gas prices and job growth. The truth is it will only accelerate climate change, harm our environment, and jeopardize the health of our communities.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



Printed on recycled paper.

H2647